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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-02 INR-07 /022 W
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P 261447Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2811
USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS LISBON 6654

USINFO FOR IOP/M
USIA FOR IEU
STATE FOR EUR/WE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECON SOPN PO US
SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION - NEW GOP AUSTERITY MEASURES

1. LATEST GOP AUSTERITY MEASURES WERE ANNOUNCED TO NATION BY PRIME MINISTER MARIO SOARES ON STATE TELEVISION EVENING OF AUG 25. AND TEXT, DETAILS, COMMENTARIES ON GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAM DOMINATED PRESS AND RADIO AUG 26. PRESS COVERAGE SO FAR HAS BEEN STRAIGHTFORWARD AND RELATIVELY FAVORABLE -- WITH THE PREDICTABLE EXCEPTION OF THE COMMUNIST PAPERS. HEADLINES GENERALLY EMPHASIZE IMMEDIATE EFFECTS AND SERIOUSNESS OF PORTUGUESE ECONOMIC CRISIS AS EXPOUNDED BY PM.

2. SAMPLE FRONT-PAGE HEADLINES AUG 27: LEADING CIRCULATION, PRO-GOP "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" -- "MARIO SOARES TELLS COUNTRY: "THE ESSENTIAL THING IS CAPACITY FOR WORK AND DETERMINATION OF THOSE WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE"; "COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ANNOUNCED NEW ECONOMIC MEASURES:
FLOATING EXCHANGE RATE AND INCREASE IN PRICE OF FUELS"; CENTER-LEFT "PRIMEIRO DE JANEIRO" -- "MARIO SOARES ANNOUNCES INCREASED AUSTERITY TO COUNTRY: '"WE WILL HAVE TO
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COUNT ONLY UPON OURSELVES TO OVERCOME THE CRISIS'"; RIGHTIST "O DIA" -- "WITHOUT LOSING CONFIDENCE IN THE SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT: AN EMERGENCY PROGRAM FOR NATIONAL SALVATION, SUGGESTED BY MARIO SOARES IN HIS STATEMENT TO THE NATION ABOUT SAVING DEMOCRACY"; COMMUNIST "O DIARIO" -- "LONG SPEECH BY MARIO SOARES: IF THE FIRST 'PACKAGE' WAS BAD THE SECOND WILL BE WORSE -- GASOLINE GOES UP TO 26 ESCUDOS FOR SUPER

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AND 23 ESCUDOS FOR REGULAR, AND THE ESCUDO RATE WILL FLOAT."

3. IT WAS TOO EARLY FOR EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF REACTIONS
TO THE SOARES PRESENTATION, ALTHOUGH SEVERAL AUG 26 PAPERS
QUOTED STATEMENTS BY POLITICAL PARTIES AND LABOR REPRESENTATIVES
WHO WERE RECEIVED BY THE PM ON AUG 25. "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS,"
IN INSIDE-PAGE ARTICLE ABOUT THOSE MEETINGS, USED THE HEADLINE,
"RECEIVED AT PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE BEFORE THE
ANNOUNCEMENT: POLITICAL PARTIES AND LABOR ORGANIZATIONS
GIVE ROUGH OUTLINE ON REACTION TO 'SECOND PACKAGE'."
FOLLOWING QUOTES WERE ATTRIBUTED TO LEADERS QUESTIONED:
PSD STILL "DISAGREED" WITH SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT'S
ECONOMIC POLICIES; CDS "DOUBTED EFFICACY" OF NEW
MEASURES; COMMUNISTS SAW "NO CHANGE" IN SOCIALIST
APPROACHES FROM BEFORE; PRO-COMMUNIST INTERSINDICAL
LABOR ORGANIZATION EXPECTED THAT MEASURES WOULD FURTHER
THREATEN WELL-BEING OF WORKING MAN AND INTERSINDICAL
THREATENED "TO REACT . . . WITH FORCE"; MORE MODERATE
"CARTA ABERTA" LABOR GROUP RESERVED OPINION FOR LATER BUT
SAID IT WOULD ASK FOR GUARANTEES AGAINST WORKER DISMISSALS.

4. PM SOARES IN EXPLAINING GOP APPROACHES TO OVERCOME
ECONOMIC CRISIS MENTIONED MULTILATERAL LENDING EFFORT
IN TERMS OF "THE LARGE EMERGENCY LOAN WE OBTAINED
WITH THE HELP OF THE UNITED STATES. . ."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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SAS ID: 1470864
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION - NEW GOP AUSTERITY MEASURES
TAGS: ECON, SOPN, PO, US, (SOARES, MARIO ALBERTO NOBRE LOPES)
To: USIA
Type: TE
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